GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1769
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MONITORING FOR QUALITY EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended for creation of a national body to monitor the quality of education in both Government and private schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government on the recommendations of the NKC; and

(c) the time by which such national body would be created to monitor the quality of education?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (d): The Extract from National Knowledge Commission recommendations regarding creation of a national body to monitor the quality of both government and private schools is Annexed. These recommendations are under examination.

ANNEXURE

Extract of NKC recommendation

2.5 There is need for a national body to monitor the quality of both government and private schools, to ensure that minimum standards are met in terms of learning outcomes.

Currently there is no systematic and continuous feedback on the actual impact and outcome of various educational schemes and initiatives, or the actual quality of education imparted in schools. There is a strong case for a testing body at the national level for quality assessment of schools. A results-based monitoring framework with due process indicators and outcome indicators needs to be evolved. This should be based on a short list of monitorable criteria. These should include fixed infrastructural requirements, enrolment and attendance, as well as outcome indicators such as learning levels achieved in certain basic areas such as language skills and numeracy, etc. Such a process of assessment needs to be applied to all schools − both public and private. However, the testing of students must not involve topics or questions that provide any incentives for rote-learning. The tracking mechanism should ideally be concerned with the profile of skill attainment of each student.

Since school education is largely a state subject, but it is also important to achieve minimum schooling norms at the national level, the institutional framework for this could be at the national level with state subsidiaries. The role of this testing body will simply be to provide information on the results of its assessments, with the state governments free to act upon this information. The results of such regular tests must be made publicly available in a format accessible to all, including websites.

The monitoring of private schools, in terms of ensuring a transparent admissions process, regulation of fee structures, as well as meeting minimum set standards for quality of teaching and infrastructure, also requires attention. There is currently no exact data on the numbers and enrolment of unrecognized private schools in the country, their fee structure or admission policy, or their standards of infrastructure and quality. Private schools should become the subject of regulation and inspection within a set framework which is universally applicable.